

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

July Livestock Slaughter
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
Average Prices Received by Farmers
U. S. Rice Stocks

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 1.2 million pounds, unchanged from June, but 8 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,300 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, unchanged from June and the previous year. Average live weight was 826 pounds, down 12 pounds from the previous month and 9 pounds below July 2001. Total live weight, at 1.07 million pounds, was 2 percent below the previous month and 4 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during July totaled 800 head, up 100 head from June, but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 499 pounds, down 18 pounds from June and 8 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight at 385,000 pounds was virtually unchanged from June, but 14 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 1,800 head, unchanged from the previous month and from July 2001. Average live weight was 209 pounds, down 1 pound from June and 11 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 384,000 pounds, up 2 percent from June but 2 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during July was 200 head, unchanged from June and the previous year. Live weight averaged 76 pounds, down 3 pounds from the previous month and 5 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in July, up 10 percent from the 3.64 billion pounds produced in July 2001 and a new record high for July.

July 2001 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays

Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year and a new record high for July. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.19 million head, up 8 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 1,248 pounds, up 32 pounds from July a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.7 million pounds, 6 percent above July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95,700 head, up 15 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 290 pounds, down 22 pounds from July a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and a new record high for July. The hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 8 percent above July 2001. The average live weight was 260 pounds, unchanged from July a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 257,600 head, 6 percent above last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, down 13 pounds from July a year ago.

January-July red meat production was 27.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above last year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year; veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	June		July		Jan - July		July		Jan - July
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.3	1.3	1.3	9.9	9.5	2,942.5	3,187.1	20,477.6	20,752.8
Calves	0.7	0.9	0.8	5.1	5.2	83.3	95.7	567.9	569.4
Hogs	1.8	1.8	1.8	17.2	15.6	7,447.6	8,067.5	55,305.4	56,496.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.6	243.5	257.6	1,848.7	1,885.5
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	1,090	1,115	1,072	8,176	8,169	3,577,258	3,977,918	24,637,168	25,760,297
Calves	386	446	385	2,563	2,610	25,942	27,798	185,763	181,461
Hogs	377	392	384	3,770	3,322	1,936,790	2,101,406	14,569,449	15,020,153
Sheep & Lambs	16	12	13	147	146	34,185	32,649	261,928	256,010
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	838	835	826	826	860	1,216	1,248	1,203	1,241
Calves	517	507	499	503	502	312	290	327	319
Hogs	210	220	209	219	213	260	260	263	266
Sheep & Lambs	79	81	76	92	91	140	127	142	136
-----Million pounds-----									
Red meat	1.2	1.3	1.2	9.5	9.3	3,644.7	4,016.0	25,767.6	27,007.2

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	July 2001	April 2002	July 2002	July 2001	April 2002	July 2002
Hired Workers (All)	37	30	37	1,374	1,079	1,206
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	335	189	240
Hired Farm Workers	37	30	37	1,039	890	966
150 Days or More	27	21	26	722	722	683
149 Days or Less	10	9	11	317	168	283
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	41.6	37.1	36.9	39.9	40.2	39.7
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$6.93	\$7.50	\$7.07	\$8.29	\$8.83	\$8.60
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$6.63	\$7.05	\$6.70	\$7.70	\$8.06	\$7.91
Livestock	\$6.47	\$7.06	\$7.10	\$7.89	\$8.43	\$8.37

¹Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

---Data not published.

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined grouping "Delta States": Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Delta states had 37,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002, unchanged from July 2001. Of the 37,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 70 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer account for the remaining 30 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$7.07 per hour compared to \$6.93 per hour in July 2001. Delta States hired farm workers averaged \$1.53 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$7.10 per hour compared to \$6.47 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$6.70, or 7 cents more per hour this July, than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 36.9 hours per week, was 2.8 hours less per week than the current U.S. average, of 39.7 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1.21 million hired workers on the nations's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. There were 966,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.60 per hour during the July 2002 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.91 per hour, up 21 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$8.37 per hour compared with \$7.89 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 39.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 0.2 hours from a year ago.

Prices Received Index Up 1 Percent

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in August was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 1.0 percent from the July index. Higher prices for corn, wheat, strawberries, and lettuce more than offset decreased prices for hogs, broilers, grapes, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and strawberries.

The current All Farm Products Index is 8.2 percent below August, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and grapes.

The Food Commodities Index increased by 1.0 percent over last month to 99, but was 12 percent below August of last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 124 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from July 2002 and August 2001. Lower prices in August for feeder pigs, hay and forages, LP gas, and potash and phosphate materials were offset by higher prices for complete feeds, feed grains, feed concentrates, and feeder cattle.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	August	July	August	August	July	August
	2001	2002	2002 ¹	2001	2002	2002 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.70	5.51	5.88	4.85	5.35	5.65
Rice, per cwt	5.33	3.77	3.68	5.10	3.77	3.74
Upland Cotton, per pound ²	.495	.305	.269	.360	.376	.315
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	97.40	93.60	93.70
Beef Cattle, per cwt	56.80	47.80	47.60	70.60	63.80	63.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	80.90	70.30	69.00	73.50	66.60	66.30
Cows, per cwt	42.60	36.20	35.00	43.10	37.40	36.10
Calves, per cwt	95.00	85.00	83.00	106.00	94.90	94.70
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.420	.310	.290
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.566	.576	.622
Milk, all, per cwt ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.50	11.20	11.20

¹Mid-month;

²Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

³Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available



United States Rice Stocks Up

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2002, totaled 31.8 million hundredweight (cwt), up 44 percent from the total on August 1, 2001. Stocks held on farms totaled 5.18 million cwt, and off-farm stocks totaled 26.6 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for 71 percent of the total rough rice; medium grain accounted for 27 percent, and short grain varieties accounted for 2 percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 4.93 million cwt, 11 percent above the comparable figure for a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 3.89 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 1.04 million cwt of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farms or Farm Warehouses	In Mills and Attached Warehouses	In Warehouses not Attached to Mills	In Ports or In Transit	Total all Positions
(Domestic Units - 1,000 Cwt)					
<u>Rough Rice</u>					
March 1, 2002	31,725	15,325	66,279	179	113,508
August 1, 2002	5,180	6,599	19,728	302	31,809
<u>Milled Rice</u>					
March 1, 2002	----	3,689	155	969	4,813
August 1, 2002	----	3,581	88	1,261	4,930

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